



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Jeffrey A. Taylor
United States Attorney

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Acting Chief Security Officer of OCTO and a former District government employee charged in federal bribery scheme

WASHINGTON - Yusuf Acar, the Acting Chief Security Officer of the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), and Sushil Bansal, a former District employee and current President and Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Integrated Technologies Corporation (AITC), have been charged in separate federal complaints for their roles in an alleged bribery scheme, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division C. André Martin, and Charles J. Willoughby, Inspector General for the District of Columbia, announced today.

Acar, 40, of the 4500 block of Branch Road, NW, Washington, D.C., was charged in a four-count complaint that charges him with Conspiracy to Commit Bribery, Honest Services Wire Fraud, Conflict of Interest, and Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments. Bansal, 41, of Dunn Loring, Virginia, was charged in a two-count complaint that charges him with Conspiracy to Commit Bribery and Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments. Both were taken into custody this morning by FBI and D.C. OIG special agents as part of an ongoing investigation. The two defendants were presented on the charges this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate John Facciola in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The maximum penalty for conspiracy to commit bribery is 5 years' incarceration; the maximum penalty for honest services wire fraud is 20 years' incarceration; the maximum penalty for conflict of interest is 5 years' incarceration; and the maximum penalty for conspiracy to launder monetary instruments is 20 years' incarceration.

According to the Affidavit in Support of the Arrest Warrants, the two defendants are alleged to have stolen large sums of money from the District of Columbia through a variety of schemes that began as part of a conspiracy in May 2008. In one scheme, a quantity of goods was ordered by OCTO from a vendor such as AITC. The vendor actually ordered a lesser number of the item from the distributor, but billed the D.C. government for the full amount originally requested by OCTO. An OCTO official, such as Yusuf Acar, allegedly falsely certified that the greater quantity was actually received and the vendor billed the District of Columbia government for the greater amount and was paid accordingly. The co-conspirators then split the proceeds of the crime.

A second scheme involved billing for “ghost employees.” These are contract employees supposedly hired by a vendor, such as AITC, to perform work under a specific contract for OCTO. However, these ghost employees never actually performed any work under the contract. The vendor, who is involved in the scheme, billed the D.C. government for the employees’ hours. An OCTO official, such as Yusuf Acar, allegedly approved the time sheet so that the vendor can be paid. The money was then split between the co-conspirators.

“The residents of the District of Columbia deserve an ethical government and have the right to know that their money is being spent honestly and for the public good,” said U.S. Attorney Taylor. “Whenever anyone violates the public trust and breaks the law, we will prosecute them vigorously.”

“My administration is fully committed to cooperating with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the Office of the Inspector General in their ongoing investigation within the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO),” stated Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. “In the meantime, OCTO will continue maintaining and supporting the District’s technology operations while supporting investigation efforts. The administration will ensure that, where appropriate, employees are held accountable for their actions.”

“The FBI and its law enforcement partners are committed to fighting public corruption and ensuring ethical public service,” said FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini. “This investigation is an example of what greed can do and how stressful economic times require even more vigilance to protect the public’s interest.”

“Regardless of one’s status or position, when a public official elects to betray the public’s trust for personal gain, the very core of how and why our system of government operates is immediately and negatively impacted,” IRS Special Agent in Charge Martin said today. “Therefore, in partnership with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the FBI, and the D.C. Office of the Inspector General, the IRS Criminal Investigation Division gives priority to investigations involving the alleged breach of the public trust by government officials at any level.”

This matter continues to be an ongoing investigation.

A complaint is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

In announcing the indictment, U.S. Attorney Taylor, FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini, IRS Special Agent in Charge Martin, and D.C. Inspector General Willoughby commended the outstanding investigative work of the special agents of the FBI, IRS, and D.C. Office of the Inspector General. They also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Thomas Hibarger and Glenn Leon, who will prosecute the case.

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